

CLAIMS:

1. A method of displacing an intermediate article within a trimming machine during the manufacture of a plastic blow molded container, comprising the steps of:

supplying a one-piece intermediate article to a trimming machine

having a drive mechanism for displacing said intermediate

article within said trimming machine, said intermediate article

including a hollow blow-molded container body having a

blown annular finish, a blow-molded accommodation portion

projecting from said blown annular finish, and an injection-

molded neck portion projecting from said accommodation

portion and defining an open top of the intermediate article; and

engaging said injection molded neck portion with said drive

mechanism to displace said intermediate article within said

trimming machine;

whereby engaging said injection-molded neck portion enables accurate control of the intermediate article resulting in improved trim consistency and quality.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of separating said accommodation portion from said container body as said intermediate article is displaced within said trimming machine.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said step of displacing the intermediate article includes rotating the intermediate article about its longitudinal axis while said intermediate article is in contact with a severing element.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said step of displacing the intermediate article includes conveying said intermediate article within the trimming machine.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said engaging step includes matingly engaging said injection molded neck portion with said drive mechanism.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said engaging step includes frictionally engaging said injection molded neck portion with said drive mechanism.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said engaging step includes engaging said injection molded neck portion with detents extending from said drive mechanism.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said injection-molded neck portion of the intermediate article has an inner peripheral surface which provides an internal drive surface, and wherein said engaging step includes inserting a portion of said drive mechanism into said open top of said intermediate article to positively engage said

internal drive surface for displacing said intermediate article within said trimming machine.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said displacing includes rotating said intermediate article about its longitudinal axis

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said displacing includes transporting said intermediate article.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said injection-molded neck portion of the intermediate article has an outer peripheral surface providing an external drive surface, and wherein during said engaging step said drive mechanism engages said external drive surface to displace said intermediate article within said trimming machine.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said displacing includes rotating said intermediate article about its longitudinal axis

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said displacing includes transporting said intermediate article.

14. A method according to claim 2, wherein said step of separating said accommodation portion from said container body is accomplished by one of mechanical cutting, ultrasonic cutting, and laser cutting.

15. A method according to claim 2, wherein said supplying step includes injection molding a preform having a sidewall portion, a closed bottom end, and a neck portion defining an open end of the preform and a surface which is releasably enageable by said drive mechanism, and blow molding said tubular sidewall portion and closed bottom end of said preform to form said intermediate article with its injection molded neck portion remaining substantially unchanged during said blow molding step.

16. An intermediate article formed during manufacture of a plastic blow-molded container, comprising:

- a hollow blow-molded container body having a sidewall, a closed base,  
and an annular blown finish;
- a blown accommodation portion projecting from said annular blown  
finish; and
- an injection-molded neck portion projecting from said blown  
accommodation portion opposite said annular blown finish and  
defining an open top of the intermediate article;

said injection-molded neck portion having an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface, and an end wall surface, at least a selected one of said surfaces of said neck portion being releasably engageable for use in displacing said neck portion under positive control within a trimming machine to separate said container body from said blown accommodation portion and said injection molded neck portion;

whereby said neck portion provides a dimensionally stable surface for manipulating said intermediate article.

17. An intermediate article according to claim 16, wherein said accommodation portion has an upper end depending from said injection molded neck portion and a lower end projecting from said annular blown finish, and wherein said accommodation portion extends outwardly between said upper and lower ends and consists of a continuous outwardly convex wall.

18. An intermediate article according to claim 16, wherein one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion is multi-sided.

19. An intermediate article according to claim 16, wherein one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion is oval in transverse cross-section.

21. An intermediate article according to claim 20, wherein one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion has alternating lugs and recesses.

22. An intermediate article according to claim 21, wherein said alternating lugs are uniformly and circumferentially spaced apart by said recesses thereby forming a surface having a gear-shaped transverse cross-section.

23. An intermediate article according to claim 16, wherein said inner peripheral surface is threaded.

24. An intermediate article according to claim 17, wherein said blown finish has blown threads.

25. A preform for use in manufacturing a blow molded plastic article in a blow mold, comprising:

a one-piece, injection-molded plastic body having a tubular sidewall portion, a closed bottom end, and a neck portion defining an open end of the preform;

said neck portion having an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface and an end wall surface;  
at least one of said surfaces of said neck portion being releasably engageable for use in displacing said neck portion under positive control within a trimming machine;  
whereby, after said sidewall portion of the preform is blown into a blow molded article in a blow mold, said neck portion provides a dimensionally stable surface for manipulating said blow molded article to enable trimming to be accomplished.

26. A preform according to claim 25, wherein said releasably engageable surface of said neck portion is offset from a longitudinal axis of said preform and has at least one section extending transversely of said longitudinal axis such that said section is matingly engageable for use in rotating said preform about said longitudinal axis.

27. A preform according to claim 26, wherein said releasable engageable surface is non-concentric about said longitudinal axis.

28. A preform according to claim 25, wherein at least one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion is multi-sided.

29. A preform according to claim 25, wherein at least one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion is oval in transverse cross-section.

30. A preform according to claim 25, wherein at least one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion has at least one recess formed therein.

31. A preform according to claim 30, wherein said inner peripheral surface of said neck portion has at least two opposed recesses.

32. A preform according to claim 30, wherein one of said inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said neck portion has alternating lugs and recesses.

33. A preform according to claim 32, wherein said lugs are uniformly and circumferentially spaced apart by said recesses forming a surface having a gear-shaped transverse cross section.

34. A preform according to claim 25, wherein said inner peripheral surface of said injection-molded neck portion has threads.

35. A preform according to claim 25, further comprising an annular flange which extends outwardly from said neck portion at a location between said sidewall portion and said outer peripheral surface of said neck portion.